

# Ibstone CE Primary School Newsletter

*Nurture - Inspire - Grow*

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Dear Families,

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Trees, lights, Nativities, the school filled with singing, costumes, a Christmas Craft Market and a Christmas Fair! This is one of the busiest times but possibly my favourite time of the school year!

## Christmas

Don't forget to order your Nativity Tickets by Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December!

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December – EYFS & KS1 Nativity** at St Nicholas Church **2pm** – 2 tickets per family (more may be available closer to the date). Please book via iPal.

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December – KS2 Nativity** at Garsington Studios **5pm** – 4 tickets per family (more may be available closer to the date). Please book via iPal.

A huge thank you to Connor and his team from Maguires' Scaffolding for collecting our Christmas Trees again this year and for helping unload them all! We open today at 6pm! Prices are the same as last year!



**Christmas Fair – 29<sup>th</sup> November 1pm-3pm**

Please come along to have an afternoon of fun with us, lots of fun games and activities. Get into the festive spirit with a hot chocolate or mulled wine.

## Mufti Day for Elfridges

We offer a Christmas shopping experience for all the children each year. This year 'Elfridges' will be open on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December. During that day, all children will be able to buy a present for adults in their family. The gifts are wrapped, with tags and bows. We need your help to stock the shop this year, please send in any unwanted (adult) gifts you may have at home. They need to be brand new and unopened. NO ALCOHOLIC drinks please.

More information on how much money to send in on the 15<sup>th</sup> etc will be sent out nearer the time.

**In return, your child can wear their own clothes for the day on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December!**



Examples: Perfume, Make up, Candles, Glassware, Men's Ties, Aftershave, Sunglasses, Baseball Caps, Bath Sets, Jewellery, Scarves, Wallets, Purses etc.

Love – Courage – Respect – Community – Perseverance

*'Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am'*  
Philippians 4:13

## Weekly Round Up

### Pebbles

This week Pebbles have been having a wonderful time practising all the Christmas songs ready for our Nativity performance. They are doing a tremendous job learning all the words and actions and we are very impressed with how well they are remembering the lyrics. Whilst they are riding bikes, playing in the sand or doing art activities they will suddenly burst into song about sheep, shepherds and angels!

We made some lovely sheep this week using wool to wrap and weave around their bodies, painting their heads and legs and then glueing all the parts together.

### Ladybirds

This week in Ladybirds we have continued with our topic on the farm. We had a fantastic walk to the farm on Monday, thank you to Brooke and Farmer Tom. We found out lots of new and exciting facts, including finding out the age of the sheep by its teeth. Everyone loved having a turn of climbing into the tractor and JCB. The children have thought about their favourite farm animal and drew a picture and added some writing. We enjoyed making our own woolly sheep.

We have continued with counting and recognising numbers and looking at how to form the numbers 1-5 correctly.

In phonics our new sounds are sh, th, ng, and nk, our new tricky words this week are push, she, he, of.

We have also been very busy getting ready for our nativity learning the songs and finding out our parts.



### Woodland Class

In English, Woodland Class have finished writing their instructions and have started looking at persuasive leaflets. As part of our hook, we received a letter from Father Christmas asking us to design a new Christmas theme park in Ibstone. The children all enjoyed drawing and discussing their ideas and will be writing their own persuasive leaflets over the next few weeks about their theme parks.

In mathematics, Year 1 have been learning about subtraction. This week we have been using the method of crossing out to see how many are left. Year 2 have also been learning about subtraction and have explored different methods to subtract a 1-digit number from a 2-digit number.

In history, we have been using our knowledge of Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale to analyse a historical source. We looked at a picture of Mary Seacole's famous statue at St Thomas' Hospital. After looking closely at the picture, we had to describe what we could see and explain why it was made. Some of the children were also challenged to make links to Florence Nightingale using what they have learned this term.

### Kestrel Class

In Science we have been learning about skeletons and this week we learnt about the human skeleton. As part of our learning, we created honeycomb structures out of toilet and kitchen rolls to demonstrate the structure of human bones. Our bones are super strong when weight bears down on them but fragile if the weight comes from an unexpected direction like horizontally. We stood on the honeycomb structures when they were vertical and they took our weight easily, but when we turned them horizontal and stood on them, they went flat. We have also talked about healthy diets and what we can do to keep our bones strong and healthy.

In French, we used different coloured shapes to create pictures, inspired by Matisse's The Snail. We then described our picture using shape and colour vocabulary.

In English, we have been making up actions to our focus text and started to innovate our own versions. We came up with a class version of How to Trap the Tooth Fairy and then the class started writing their own versions of trapping various characters such as ogres, dinosaurs and elves. We also did some hot-seating drama activities to get into the character of the Grass Goblin and try to understand his emotions.

In maths, both Nemos and Frogs have continued working on multiplication and division. There has been lots of work on sharing and grouping this week, as well as using the inverse to work out multiplication equations.



### Osprey Class

It has been such a pleasure to be back in with Osprey Class this week. I have really missed them all and I have been so proud of how well they have adjusted.

This week in English we have started looking at our new class text 'Arthur's Diary'. The class completed a cold task where they wrote a diary entry about their perfect day, their worst day, their first or favourite holiday.

Maths has been all about fractions this week. Y5 have been ordering fractions with varying denominators and Y6 have been adding and subtracting mixed numbers!

We have had some fantastic discussions in history this week as we have begun learning about WW2. Students have been so respectful and have shown great maturity when discussing such difficult topics. We have been learning about evacuation, the Blitz and the timeline around WW2.

### Barn Owls

In maths, we have continued our work on developing our multiplication skills. We learned to count in fours. We have applied this to writing multiplication facts and solving word problems involving the four times tables. The children are getting really good at writing number tracks to support them with their times tables

For English, we continued our work on 'How to Trap a Grass Goblin'. We explored both time connectives and imperative verbs within the text. At the end of the week, we started innovating the text trying to trap a tooth fairy instead of the grass goblin.

### In other news:

#### Forest School Clothing

We have now moved into Winter, please ensure that your child has the right clothes and footwear/socks. All children need to have an extra pair of socks for Forest School, especially if they are wearing wellies.

#### Forest School Kit List

#### Winter

- Warm waterproof coat / ski coat  
(this must be in addition to their school coat)
- Waterproof trousers/ ski trousers
- Hat
- Gloves
- Spare socks
- Wellies/ snow boots/ walking boots
- Extra mid layers – jumpers / joggers from Nov – Feb

Looking forward to seeing over the weekend!

Louise Long  
Headteacher

## Headteacher Awards



## Lunchtime Awards



# Runner of the Week



## Diary Dates

New or amended dates will be shown in **BOLD**

Date	Occasion	Who?
<b>November 2025</b>		
28 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Trees & Christmas Craft Fair 6pm-9pm	Everyone
29 <sup>th</sup>	Children's Christmas Fair	Everyone
<b>December 2025</b>		
9 <sup>th</sup>	EYFS / KS1 Nativity Performance -2pm – St Nicholas Church	EYFS / KS1 Families
11 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 Christmas Performance – 5pm – Garsington Studios	Everyone
12 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Jumper & Christmas Lunch Day	Everyone
19 <sup>th</sup>	End of term 1.30pm	Everyone
<b>January 2026</b>		
5 <sup>th</sup>	Back to school	Everyone
<b>February 2026</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Open Classrooms – 3.30pm – 5.15pm – more information to follow	Everyone
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Parents Evening – more information to follow	Everyone
4 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening – more information to follow	Everyone
9 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup>	Children's Mental Health Week - more information to follow	Everyone
10 <sup>th</sup>	Safer Internet Day	Everyone
12 <sup>th</sup>	End of Term – 3.15pm / 3.25pm	Everyone
13 <sup>th</sup>	INSET Day	Staff only
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Back to school	Everyone
<b>March 2026</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day – more details to follow	Everyone
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ibstone Circle – more information to follow	Everyone
26 <sup>th</sup>	Stations of the Cross Easter Walk	Everyone
27 <sup>th</sup>	End of Term – 1.30pm	Everyone
<b>April 2026</b>		
13 <sup>th</sup>	Back to school	Everyone
<b>May 2026</b>		
5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Adventure Week	Year 5 only
11 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATs Week	Year 6 only
22 <sup>nd</sup>	End of Term – 3.15pm	Everyone
<b>June 2026</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	INSET Day	Staff Only
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Back to school	Everyone
15 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Adventure Week	Year 6 only
<b>July 2026</b>		
7 <sup>th</sup>	Transition Day	Everyone
9 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 Sports Morning 9am-10.30am – more information to follow	KS2 families
10 <sup>th</sup>	EYFS & KS1 Sports Morning 9am-10.30am – more information to follow	Ladybirds & Woodland Class families
4 <sup>th</sup>	Pebbles Sports Morning 11pm-12pm – more information to follow	Pebbles families
13 <sup>th</sup>	Ibfest Week – more information to follow	Everyone
17 <sup>th</sup>	Pebbles Last Day	Pebbles
20 <sup>th</sup>	Leavers' Service 9.15am, St Nicholas Church	Year 6 Families
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Garden Celebration – 12.45pm	Everyone

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*Philippians 4:13*